



SMALL BATCH

VARIETY: *Chardonnay*

REGION: *Hawke's Bay*

VINTAGE: *2015*

THE SMALL BATCH COLLECTION WINES ARE CRAFTED FROM SMALL PARCELS OF FRUIT THAT CAPTURE THE ATTENTION OF OUR WINEMAKERS. THESE PARCELS ARE INDIVIDUALLY TENDED TO IN THE WINERY TO ENSURE THEY TRULY REPRESENT THE VINEYARD. THE 2015 SMALL BATCH HAWKE'S BAY CHARDONNAY HAS INVITING AROMAS OF RIPE STONEFRUIT AND TOASTY BRIOCHE WHICH GREET YOU AND LEAD INTO A RICH FULL PALATE WITH A TOASTY BUTTERY FINISH.

VINEYARD REGION Puketapu, Hawke's Bay where the best Chardonnay on some of the oldest vines in the region is grown.

WINEMAKING Hand selected grapes were pressed and the juice was settled for 12 hours before transfer to French Oak barrels for fermentation. A selection of yeast strains were used to both capture and enhance the multitude of aromas and flavours within the fruit. To help develop a creamy texture, the chardonnay was left on lees in barrel for nine months. After a barrel selection tasting, the Small Batch Chardonnay blend was finalised, filtered and bottled with minimal handling.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS The 2015 season started drier than usual with typically good temperatures from December through to February. Around 16th to 18th March the edge of a tropical cyclone made its presence felt and about 50mm of rain fell in Hawke's Bay. Immediately after the rain, some very cool southerly winds dried the vineyards out perfectly. The next three weeks saw almost no rain and ripening continued well. Cool dry weather followed right up until the end of harvest on the 24th April. Harvest began with Chardonnay around mid-March and the fruit benefited greatly from another 2 weeks on the vine.

NOSE Ripe stone fruit, rich warm brioche and enticing creamy sweet nougat aromas.

PALATE Peach and nectarine along with complex gently toasted cashew characters from subtle French oak. A silky, generous palate with layers of fruit, oak spice and balanced acidity.

WINE ANALYSIS

RS: 2.56g/L
TA: 6.29 g/L
Alc: 13%

AGING POTENTIAL

5 years

FOOD MATCH

Rich chicken or creamy pasta dishes.

WINEMAKER: Andrew Blake

